

M Y S

MYSTÉRIOUS. *adj.* [*mysterieux*, French, from *mystery*.]
1. Inaccessible to the understanding; awfully obscure.

To Satan, first in sin, his doom apply'd,
Though in *mysterious* terms. *Milton's Par. Lost. b. x.*
Then the true Son of knowledge first appear'd,
And the old dark *mysterious* clouds were clear'd. *Denham.*
2. Artfully perplexed.
Those princes who were most distinguished for their *mysterious* skill in government, found, by the event, that they had ill consulted their own quiet, or the happiness of their people. *Swift's Thoughts on the State of Affairs.*

MYSTÉRIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *mysterious*.]
1. In a manner above understanding.

2. Obscurely; enigmatically.
Our duty of preparation contained in this one word, try or examine, being after the manner of *mysteries*, *mysteriously* and secretly described, there is reason to believe that there is in it very much duty. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*
Each fair *mysteriously* was meant. *Milton.*

MYSTÉRIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *mysterious*.]
1. Holy obscurity.

My purpose is, to gather together into an union all those several portions of truth, and differing apprehensions of *mysteriousness*. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*
2. Artful difficulty or perplexity.

To MYSTÉRISE. *v. a.* [from *mystery*.] To explain as enigmas.
Mysterizing their enigmas, they make the particular ones of the twelve tribes accommodable unto the twelve signs of the zodiac. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*

MYSTERY. *n. f.* [*μυστήριον*; *myster*, Fr.]

1. Something above human intelligence; something awfully obscure.

They can judge as fitly of his worth,
As I can of those *mysteries* which heav'n
Will not have earth to know. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
Upon holy days, let the matter of your meditations be according to the *mystery* of the day; and to your ordinary devotions of every day, add the prayer which is fitted to the *mystery*. *Taylor.*

If God should please to reveal unto us this great *mystery* of the trinity, or some other *mysteries* in our holy religion, we should not be able to understand them, unless he would bestow on us some new faculties of the mind. *Swift's Sermon.*

2. An enigma; any thing artfully made difficult.

To thy great comfort in this *mystery* of ill opinions, here's the twin brother of thy letter. *Shak. Mer. Wives of Windsor.*
Important truths still let your fables hold,
And moral *mysteries* with art unfold. *Granville.*

3. A trade; a calling: in this sense it should, according to Warburton, be written *mistry*, from *mystère*, French, a trade.
And that which is the noblest *mystery*,
Brings to reproach and common infamy. *Hubbard's Tale.*



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Instruction, manners, *mysteries* and trades,
Degrees, observances, customs and laws,
Decline to your confounding contraries. *Shakespeare.*

MYSTICAL. *adj.* [*mysticus*, Latin.]

1. Sacredly obscure.

Let God himself that made me, let not man that knows not himself, be my instructor concerning the *mystical* way to heaven. *Hooker, b. i.*

From salvation all flesh being excluded this way, God hath revealed a way *mystical* and supernatural. *Hooker, b. i.*

2. Involving some secret meaning; emblematical.

Ye five other wand'ring fires! that move
In *mystick* dance not without song, refund
His praise, who out of darkness call'd up light. *Milton.*

It is Christ's body in the sacrament and out of it; but in the sacrament not the natural truth, but the spiritual and *mystical*. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*

It is plain from the Apocalypse, that *mystical* Babylon is to be consumed by fire. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

3. Obscure; secret.

Left new fears disturb the happy state,
Know, I have search'd the *mystick* rolls of fate. *Dryden.*

MYSTICALLY. *adv.* [from *mystical*.] In a manner, or by an act, implying some secret meaning.

These two in thy sacred bosom hold,
Till *mystically* join'd but one they be. *Dante.*

MYSTICALNESS. *n. f.* [from *mystical*.] Involvement of some secret meaning.

MYTHOLOGICAL. *adj.* [from *mythology*.] Relating to the explication of fabulous history.

The original of the conceit was probably hieroglyphical, which after became *mythological*, and by tradition stole into a total verity, which was but partially true in its covert sense and morality. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

MYTHOLOGICALLY. *adv.* [from *mythological*.] In a manner suitable to the system of fables.

MYTHOLOGIST. *n. f.* [from *mythology*.] A relator or expounder of the ancient fables of the heathens.

The grammarians and *mythologists* seem to be altogether unacquainted with his writings. *Cruch.*

It was a celebrated problem among ancient *mythologists*, What was the strongest thing, what the wisest, and what the greatest? *Norris's Miscel.*

To MYTHOLOGIZE. *v. n.* [from *mythology*.] To relate or explain the fabulous history of the heathens.

MYTHOLOGY. *n. f.* [*μυθολογία*; *mythologie*, French.] System of fables; explication of the fabulous history of the gods of the heathen world.

The modesty of *mythology* deserves to be commended: the scenes there are laid at a distance; it is once upon a time, in the days of yore, and in the land of Utopia. *Bentley.*

N.

N A K

N, A semivowel, has in English an invariable sound; as, *no*, *name*, *net*; it is sometimes after *n* almost lost; as, *condemn*, *content*.

To NAB. *v. a.* [*nappa*, Swedish.]
To catch unexpectedly; to seize without warning. A word seldom used but in low language.

NADIR. *n. f.* [Arabic.] The point under foot directly opposite to the zenith.

As far as four bright signs comprise,
The distant zenith from the nadir lies. *Creech.*

NAFF. *n. f.* A kind of tufted sea-bird.

NAG. *n. f.* [*nagge*, Dutch.]

1. A small horse. A horse in familiar language.

A hungry lion would fain have been dealing with good horse-flesh; but the *nag* would be too fleet. *L'Estrange.*

Thy *nags*, the leanest things alive,
So very hard thou lov'st to drive. *Prior.*

2. A paramour; in contempt.

Your ribaud *nag* of Egypt
Hoists sails, and flies. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*

NAIL. *n. f.* [*nagel*, Saxon; *nagel*, German.]

1. The hard crust or horny substance at the ends of the fingers and toes.

My *nails* can reach unto thine eyes. *Shakespeare.*

The meanest sculptor in th' *Emilian* square,
Can imitate in brass, the *nails* and hair;
Expert in trifles. *Dryden.*

The *nails* of our fingers give strength to those parts in the various functions they are put to; and defend the numerous nerves and tendons that are under them. *Ray.*

2. The talons of birds and beasts.

3. A spike of metal by which things are fastened together.

As one *nail* by strength drives out another;
So the remembrance of my former love
Is by a newer object soon forgotten. *Shakespeare.*

For the body of the ships, no nation doth equal England, nor for the oaken timber to build them; and we need not borrow iron for spikes or *nails*, to fasten them together. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

The load-stone mines in the shore of India, are so placed in abundance and vigor, that it proves an adventure of hazard to pass those coasts in a ship with iron *nails*. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii. c. 3.*

A beechen pail
Hung by the handle, on a driven *nail*. *Dryden.*

An equivocal word used for the *nail* of the hand or foot, and for an iron *nail* to fasten any thing. *Watts.*

4. A Stud; a boss.

5. A kind of measure; two inches and a quarter.

6. On the *nail*. Readily; immediately; without delay. I suppose from a counter fludded with *nails*.

We want our money on the *nail*,
The banker's ruin'd if he pays. *Swift's Poems.*

To NAIL. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To fasten with *nails*.

To the cross he *nails* thy enemies,
The law that is against thee, and the sins
Of all mankind, with him are crucify'd. *Milton's P. Lost.*

He clasp'd his hand upon the wounded part.
The second shaft came swift and unespied,
And pierc'd his hand, and *nail'd* it to his hide. *Dryden.*

2. To stud with *nails*.

In golden armour glorious to behold,
The rivets of your arms were *nail'd* with gold. *Dryden.*

3. To fasten with *nails*.

NAILER. *n. f.* [from *nail*.] One whose trade is to forge *nails*; a nail-maker.

NAKED. *adj.* [*nacob*, Saxon.]

1. Wanting cloaths; uncovered; bare.

A philosopher being asked in what a wife man differed from a fool? answered, fend them both *naked* to those who know them not, and you shall perceive. *Bacon, Apophth. 242.*

He pitying how they rood
Before him *naked* to the air, that now

N A M

Must suffer change;
As father of his family, he clad
Their nakedness with skins of beasts. *Milton, P. Lost.*

Ungrateful men,
Behold my bosom *naked* to your swords;
And let the man that's injur'd strike the blow. *Addison.*

2. Unarmed; defenceless; unprovided.

Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal
I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age
Have left me *naked* to mine enemies. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

3. Plain; evident; not hidden.

The truth appears so *naked* on my side,
That any purblind eye may find it out. *Shakespeare's Hen. VI.*

4. Mere; bare; wanting the necessary additions; simple; abstracted.

Not that God doth require nothing unto happiness at the hands of men, saving only a *naked* belief, for hope and charity we may not exclude; but that without belief all other things are as nothing, and it is the ground of those other divine virtues. *Hooker, b. i. p. 37.*

NAKEDLY. *adv.*

1. Without covering.

2. Simply; merely; barely; in the abstract.

Though several single letters *nakedly* considered, are found to be articulations only of spirit or breath, and not of breath vocalized; yet there is that property in all letters of aptness, to be conjoined in syllables. *Helders.*

3. Discoverably; evidently.

So blinds the sharpest counsels of the wife
This overshadowing Providence on high,
And dazzleth all their clearest sighted eyes,
That they see not how *nakedly* they lie. *Daniel Civil War.*

NAKEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *naked*.]

1. Nudity; want of covering.

My face I'll grime with filth;
And with presented *nakedness* out-face
The winds and persecutions of the sky. *Shak. K. Lear.*

Nor he their outward only, with the skins
Of beasts; but inward *nakedness*, much more
Opprobrious! with his robe of righteousness
Arraying, cover'd from his father's sight. *Milton.*

I entreat my gentle readers to slow on their tuckers again, and not to imitate the *nakedness*, but the innocence of their mother Eve. *Addison's Guard. N. 100.*

Thou to be strong must put off every dross;
Thy only armour is thy *nakedness*. *Prior.*

2. Want of provision for defence.

Spies, to see the *nakedness* of the land are come. *Gen. xlii. 9.*

3. Plainness; evidence; want of concealment.

Why seek'st thou to cover with excuse
That which appears in proper *nakedness*? *Shakespeare.*

NALL. *n. f.* An awl, such as collar-makers use, with whole bridle and saddle, whitelather and *nall*, with collars and harness. *Truffer's Husb.*

NAME. *n. f.* [*nama*, Saxon; *naem*, Dutch; *anum*, Eric.]

1. The discriminative appellation of an individual.

What is thy *name*?
Thou'lt be afraid to hear it:
No: though thou call'st thyself a hotter *name*
Than any is in hell.
My *name*'s Macbeth. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

He called their *names* after the *names* his father had called them. *Gen. xxvi. 18.*

2. The term by which any kind or species is distinguished.

What's in a *name*? That which we call a rose,
By any other *name* would smell as sweet.
If every particular idea that we take in, should have a distinct *name*, *names* must be endless. *Locke.*

3. Person.

They list with women each degenerate *name*,
Who dares not hazard life for future fame. *Dryden.*

4. Reputation; character.